

**DIGITAL SERVICES AT MARIA ELENA CASO MUÑOZ LIBRARY, ICML,
U.N.A.M.**

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ABSTRACT: The Mazatlán Academic Unit Library was built in 1976 and provided some services in a very limited manner. It wasn't until 1983, when its formal organization began as a “Marine Science Library” and offering library services to internal and external users. Progressively, more documents were incorporated and from 1986, the thematic organization of the collection and its respective catalogue manuals was undertaken, using for that purpose an appropriate infrastructure. On November 6, 1991 the library was named “Dra. María Elena Caso” in honor of a distinguished scientist who worked at the Institute of Marine Science and Limnology on the Mexico City campus. In 1991, the incorporation of the collection into the database was started. At present there are about 650 titles of journals (more than 17,500 issues), approximately 2,800 books, more than 498 undergraduate and postgraduate theses, as well as more than 10,800 reprints. We are aware of the importance of a library specialized in marine science and limnology, in the last six years it has grown constantly, both in terms of space and the collection. Since 1996 the library has been affiliated with the IAMSLIC. From the year 2000, it has access to databases, full-text (e-journals) such as ELSEVIER, KLUWER, EBSCO, SWESNET, IDEAL, etc. and abstracts such as the Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, current contents, etc., as well as software and updated technology. A consultation service to internal and external users is provided and offers a photocopying service, as well as advice in consulting the database on line of e-journals of both abstract and full-text to which the UNAM is subscribed. Currently, book, theses, periodical publications, memoirs, and reports catalogues are available on our web page: <http://ola.icmyl.unam.mx/biblio>

ANTECEDENTS

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The importance that a library has in a general context of investigation and teaching, is not a discussion theme. Conscious of all this global transformation process in Mazatlan Unit, the library must to occupy a predominant place, because its goals are achieved with hard work, constancy, and perseverance reached with satisfaction and pride.

OBJECTIVES

To provide information needs for investigators, technicians, teachers and students, supporting their academic activities.

To act as an information scientific center, fortifying investigation and education activities at a regional level.

RESULTS

Our library collection was really small and it had a few periodical publications subscriptions (1979-1982) but they were suspended at Mazatlán and centralized because of high costs. In this situation, we started to receive donations made by local and foreign institutions. We also selected key words from some areas that were interesting to ICML's researchers and we requested a lot of reprints directly to the authors through printed ASFA editions, where we got data and through a special format, by airmail. This process produced really good results; we received 80% of 100 requested reprints.

With this kind of results, some necessary requests and cooperation with our authorities, we achieved an authorization for the acquisition of some book titles and in 1990 we acquired nine specialized journals and three general periodical publications subscriptions again. Since then we have increased the number of publications.

Today we have a total of 48 titles (printed) as subscription, 32 titles as exchange plus electronic titles as UNAM subscription (more than 1,800 titles).

After obtaining a good collection by donation and subscription, the physical space was filled, and then we had the great necessity for more area in the library, so in 1996 an expansion from 33 meters to 65 m² was authorized. This allowed us to have a well-organized collection and room for a growing reserve that we are still supporting by subscription, donation and exchange. In this rubric, we began a strong exchange and donation international campaign and in less than three years we obtained more than 2,500 titles (journals and a good number of books).

In 1996, we joined IAMSLIC (International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers). As soon as we had joined, the recovery of articles not held started; we also received donations for about 2,000 titles (journals and books).

Acquisition of two computers played a fundamental part in modernizing the library, during 1997. These had CD readers incorporated which allowed us an easier access to UNAM catalogs, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, and Silver Platter.

In summary, with the improvements in collections and services we were able to serve at a regional level, and an exchange was established with more than 35 regional institutions in a national level. With the library growth, the authorities approved a new and appropriate building for the library (approximately 120 m².) After the authorization the local director presented to CONACyT a project for economic support for furniture and equipment (PENTIUM III computers, scanners, LaserJet printers, etc.), which was approved, and in 1999 we inaugurated the new library building, the first step to developing our library.

At UNAM's level, we began to subscribe to more summary databases (CAMBRIDGE, Current Contents, Dissertation Abstracts, Web of Science, etc) and complete texts (ELSEVIER, SPRINGER, IDEAL, KLUWER, SWETSNET, BLACKWELL, etc.) that index thousands of titles in a multidisciplinary way.

The library has access to more the 1800 titles in our investigation areas, and also we have free access (UNAM IP's) to all multidisciplinary titles.

Because of the demand we had, we contracted with an academic technical expert to cover our service and technology needs, especially in the computer science field, serving through on-line catalogs to both, internal and external users. The design includes a simple but functional program with which the user can quickly retrieve the information that we have in the library. We have books, theses, journals, and reports catalogs in Dra. Maria Elena Caso Muñoz Library. Web address: <http://ola.icmyl.unam.mx/biblio>

In this rubric also, we are working on programs for circulation, statistics, other on-line catalogs, and direct links to other journal titles.

The library is offering some automated services: the electronic catalog (books, periodical publications, theses, memoirs, and reports) and some advice on access to the different catalogs and access to abstract and full-text electronic databases to which UNAM has

subscribed. Also the library has other automation plans that are being developed with several computational programs: automated loan services for the total collection, statistical services for consultation and loans, maintenance of all the databases for the Internet catalogs to consult. All the programs are designed on requirements and necessities of the library and the user with the main objective that they are easy and the friendliest possible to all users.

For more efficient service, we have inside of our main web site at Mazatlán Academic Unit an access to ELECTRONIC SERVICES: <http://ola.icmyl.unam.mx/serviciosinf.html> where we have direct links to databases summaries, as well as the more used complete texts, not to mention, the access to Library General Direction link where you can get all databases in alphabetic order: <http://www.dgbiblio.unam.mx/bases.html> and access to electronic journals: <http://www.dgbiblio.unam.mx/revistas.html>

From 1999 to 2001 the library had 8,735 internal users and 3,329 external users, giving a total of 12,064 users, with an average of 4,000 users per year. The total consulted collection was 25,770 (books, periodical publications, thesis, memoirs, reports, and reprints). We completed 192 requests to buy books. We produced 2,638 requests for documentation service through our library in Mexico City. We received 6,595 titles (books and periodical publications). We obtained 1,724 books and periodical publications.

We have an e-mail update service, which includes some searches in our databases and sending PDF files attached or as documents by ARIEL.

CONCLUSIONS

Since the library was inaugurated in the new building on December 1999 and CONACyT's support for furniture and computer acquisition allows us access to databases in summaries as well as full-text with UNAM's subscription. We offer to internal and external users, consulting services, address loans, photocopy, advising how to access every catalog that the library has, (books, theses, periodical publications, memoirs) and to databases to which UNAM subscribes, in abstract and full-text, automatic searches, vanguard services (sending and reception of documents through ARIEL software) that allows us to send or to receive articles in a faster way and with good quality in any part of the world, etc. With all these services we try to offer our best support to investigation and teaching in a regional level, so the Dra. Maria Elena Caso Muñoz library is the best choice in specialized libraries in marine sciences.